

HOUSE RACES

Open (No Incumbent) Republican Seats

1. District 34--Terry Ingmire (R-Stillwater)

Democrats—Ruth Anne Kennedy, 46, realtor, former city counselor and Cory T. Williams, attorney, 30. Will be spirited primary.

Republican—Aaron Carlson, 30, has worked for R politicians including Wes Watkins

Comment: Both D candidates are serious and will be well funded. Carlson meets the profile of the young R staffers doing full time politics and finally running for office themselves

2. District 47—Susan Winchester (R-Chickasha)

Democrat—Harold Jackson, 65, owns a 2 or 3 McDonalds and is former mayor of Chickasha

Republicans—Republican primary of 3 candidates. Likely nominee is Leslie Osborn, 44, Tuttle.

Comment: Dems feel Jackson is a strong candidate. Well known and liked. Osborn is a school teacher from a well known and well liked family. Should be a very competitive race.

3. District 48—Greg Piatt (R-Ardmore)

Democrat—John L. Moore, 54, Ardmore, 3 terms on Ardmore City Council, former mayor, wife is on school board, mid-level management at Michelien

Republican—Pat Ownby, 54, likely winner of 2 person primary. Ownby worked in Piatt campaigns and decided to run this time.

Comment: Should be a close, competitive race.

4. District 87—Trebor Worthen (R-Oklahoma City)

Democrat—Dana Orwig, teacher, Episcopal deacon

Republican--Jason Nelson should emerge from 2 way primary. Nelson is a campaign consultant and lobbyist.

Comment: Dems like the narrative: educator and deacon vs. lobbyist. Orwig got over 48% against Worthen in 06 and never stopped working. Nelson will have money and lots of insider help.

5. District 96—Lance Cargill (R-Harrah)

Democrat—Likely winner in a 2 way primary, Dianne Hunter, 58, Edmond. Wife of Dr. who ran for Congress in 06.

Republican. 2 way primary, winner yet to be determined.

Comment: Hunter has already put \$40,000 of her own money in the campaign. Showed herself to be likeable and good campaigner in her husband's race.

Open Democratic (No incumbent) Seats

1. District 51—Ray McCarter (D-Marlow)

Democrat—Tommy Cosgrove, 59, just retired as principal at Marlow schools to run for this seat.

Republican—Sean Oliver, 36, resigned from Marlow schools to run.

Comment: Dems feel good about holding this seat although Oliver could make a race of it if he's a hard worker.

District 52—David Braddock (D-Altus)

2. Democrat—Dan McMahan, 50, Altus attorney

Republican--Likely winner of 2 way primary is Charles L. Ortega, local businessman. Apparently he is late arrival when the R's preferred candidate backed out.

Comment: This seat is up for grabs. McMahan is an Altus attorney, quality candidate. Ortega is a local business man and will campaign hard.

District 57—James Covey (D-Clinton)

3. Democrat—Perry Adams, 55, Custer City, well known and liked retired school superintendent

Republican—4 way primary, winner yet to be determined.

Comment: Dems feel Adams is a very strong candidate. Son is a lawyer in the district. Daughter just finished law school and is full time campaign manager.

4. District 93—Al Lindley (D-Oklahoma City)

Democrat—David Castillo, 48, OKC, member of OKC school board, works for Hispanic Chamber, does lots of community work.

Republican--Mike Christian, ran a close race against Lindley last time out, has lots of baggage, bad divorce. There's also has an independent candidate.

Comment: Has become a problem seat for Dems. Lindley perceived to be weak incumbent last couple of cycles. Question also is what will be the effect of a Hispanic candidate. Lots of Hispanics in the district, but not a majority.

Republican incumbents with competitive races

1. District 5—Republican incumbent, Doug Cox

Democrat, Kelly Kerr, 39, Grove teacher, been walking for 2 months, serious candidate

Comment: I'd say Cox is very popular or he would not have been elected in the first place. On the other hand, the numbers say this should be a Dem. District.

2. District 10—Republican incumbent, Steve Martin

Democrat, Eric Epperson, ag teacher in Nowata.

Comment: This may or may not be a competitive race.

3. District 14—Republican incumbent, George Faught

Democrat, Eugene Blankenship, County emergency officer.

Comment: This should be a very competitive race.

4. District 25—Republican incumbent, Todd Thompsen

Democrats, Darrell Nemechek, 58 and Gary Starns, 47 are in a primary. Nemechek lost to Thompsen by 2 votes in 06 in a recount. Starns is currently a County Commissioner. The numbers in this district are heavily Democratic.

5. District 30—Republican incumbent, Mark McCullough trailed Dem. Melinda Ryan the whole campaign in 06, then until last 2 weeks when TV and heavy anti-Democratic mailings switched the race.

Democrat is popular retiring Sapulpa school superintendent Joe Crowder.

Comment: This is a swing district, but always Democratic before 06. Dems feel they have a good shot here.

7. District 71—Republican incumbent, Dan Sullivan

Democrat, George Bullock, 45, Tulsa businessman.

Comment: This is could be a very unpleasant campaign for Sullivan. Sullivan moved out of his house when his wife filed for divorce, and Bullock will make an issue of his residency. Sullivan also had some tax problems.

Democratic incumbents with competitive races

1. District 36—Democratic incumbent, Scott BigHorse

3 way Republican primary including Eddie Fields, 41, whom Scott defeated in 06.

Comment: The race could become competitive.

2. District 37—Democratic incumbent, Ken Luttrell

Republican, Brent Colle, last minute candidate “find” for Rs.

Comment: The district leans heavily Republican, but Luttrell is obviously popular.

3. District 44—Democratic incumbent, Bill Nations

Republican, Tod Barrett, 46, another last minute “find” for Repubs.

Race may or may not be competitive.

4. District 45—Democrat, Wallace Collins

4 way Republican primary.

This is a swing district. Collins works very hard and has won and lost several times.

5. District 60—Democrat incumbent, Purcy Walker

Republican Dan Gambill

Comment: I list this as competitive because it's in western Oklahoma which leans R. Purcy works hard and should win, but bears watching.

6. District 66—Democratic incumbent, Lucky Lamons

Republican, Jay K. Ramey, 43.

Comment: Lucky is a hard campaigner. The race may not be competitive.

7. District 78—Democratic incumbent, Jeannie McDaniel

Republican, Jay Matlock, 30.

Comment: Swing district, but Jeannie is hard worker. This opponent is not as serious as her last one.

8. District 94—Democratic incumbent, Scott Inman

Republican, Kyle Coulter, 26

This was a take away last time for Dems (Kevin Calvey's old seat).

9. District 97—Democratic incumbent, Mike Shelton

Has a Democratic and Republican opponent.

Comment: This is not a serious race.

10. District 99—Democratic incumbent, Anastasia Pittman

Has a Democratic and Republican opponent.

Comment: Again, not a serious race.

Races to watch

1. District 31—Republican incumbent Jason Murphy. Murphy lost to a Republican in 04, then beat him in 06. Probably still a bad taste in the mouths of some of the Republicans. The Democrat is Jennifer Sherill, a 33-year old attorney who lives in Guthrie and works in OKC and has been somewhat politically active.

2. District 33—Republican incumbent Lee Denney. Denney is a popular local veterinarian. This is a swing district, and the Democrat, Mike Pierson has been working for quite some time. This district includes Langston, which could one of the few places the national ticket will help Democrats.

3. District 39—Republican incumbent is Marion Cooksey. This is a heavily Republican district, but the Democrat is Graham Guhl, an Assistant D.A. in the Oklahoma County DA's office, a credible candidate.

4. District 59—This is an open seat vacated by Rob Johnson (R-Kingfisher). There's a 3 way Republican primary, and the Dem is Donald Russell, a 51-year old Farmer/Rancher. No one really knows how this race will develop. The seat was held by a Democrat, Clay Pope, until 4 years ago.

B. SENATE RACES

SD 37: Sen. Nancy Riley (D) vs. TBD (R)

Citing the lack of tolerance for moderates within the Republican Party, Sen. Nancy Riley announced her intentions in August of 2006 to change her registration to the Democratic Party. Her decision created the 24-24 tie in the State Senate for the 2006 legislative session, as well as ensured her rank as a top target of Republicans statewide in the 2008 cycle.

The numbers in Riley's district are pretty heavily Republican.

Republicans will face a primary challenge to determine their nominee. Mortgage banker Dan Newberry and city employee Jan Megee will face off in the primary. Republican leadership is supporting Newberry.

SD 21: Judge Bob Murphy (D) vs. James Halligan (R) – Open due to term limits

Senate District 21 is a prototypical swing district for the Oklahoma Senate. The bulk of the electorate lies within the college town of Stillwater (home of Oklahoma State University), Cushing, and Guthrie. The district also contains Langston University, a historical black college, which represents the Democratic base for the district.

The seat is being vacated by current President Pro Tempore Mike Morgan due to term limits. The Democratic caucus is supporting Bob Murphy, who left the judicial bench after serving 14 years to run for the State Senate seat his father held for 18 years. Republicans have tapped 72 year old former OSU President James Halligan as their candidate.

SD 31: Sen. Don Barrington (R) vs. Keith Erwin (D)

Republican Sen. Don Barrington currently occupies the strongest Democratic Performing seat held by a Republican. He is up for his first reelection in 2008. The bulk of the electorate in SD 31 lies in the community of Lawton and its surrounding areas. The area is heavily Democratic but has gone Republican recently.

The Democratic candidate is Lawton businessman and community leader Keith Erwin.

SD 27: Bowdy Peach (D) vs. TBD (R)

The Democratic candidate is Bowdy (pronounced “Bodie”) Peach – a professional bull rider, family farmer and oil and gas small businessman. He is the son of Terry Peach, who is the Commissioner and Secretary of Agriculture in Oklahoma. The Peach’s have been farming the same piece of land since 1898, and their strong agricultural ties will be vital in a district that spans much of Northwestern Oklahoma and the panhandle. Peach is 34 and has one daughter.

Republicans will face a spirited primary between Bryce Marlatt and Kevin Evans. Evans just entered the race on the last day of candidate filing. Marlatt appears to have the early upper hand and will run as a neo-conservative, and Evans will likely position himself to pick up more moderate voters.

SD 7: Sen. Richard Lerblance (D) vs. Kenneth Sherrill (R)

Senator Lerblance had heart surgery during the legislative session, but h has nearly fully recovered. He is campaigning full time alongside his wife Francis in Haskell, Latimer, Sequoyah and Pittsburg Counties.

Retired stockyard owner Ken Sherrill – who has lost twice in previous Democratic primaries to Lerblance – changed his party registration shortly before the deadline last year. He will face Lerblance as a Republican this time in a district that overwhelmingly votes Democratic.

SD 15: Sen. Jonathon Nichols (R) vs. Diane Drum (D)

Voters of SD 15 have demonstrated willingness to party switch up and down the ballot in recent history. Brad Henry got 66% of the vote, Askins 51%, Fields 48% and Holland 51% in 2006. Democrats have identified a strong candidate in Diane Drum, an attorney and former school teacher.

Nichols, a former Assistant D.A., has had strong challenges in each of his races, but obviously is popular, as he has kept winning.

SD 43: Sen. Jim Reynolds (R) vs. David Boren (D)

Republican Senator Reynolds is running for his second term. Past electoral performance indicates the district is actually trending Democratic. Jari Askins got 49% of the district's vote in her Lt. Governor bid, Lloyd Fields got 48% of the vote for Labor Commissioner, and Governor Brad Henry got 64%. Most encouraging, Democratic candidates for the State House in 06 gained 52% of the vote in SD 43.

Democrats have filed David Lee Boren as their candidate. Boren is of no relation to the former Senator, Governor and current President of OU David Lyle Boren – the names are a complete coincidence. Boren is a 34 year old psychiatric nurse who is married, and is the coach of his two kids' little league teams.